

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

**Impact of Community College of Philadelphia  
Allied Health Programs on the Philadelphia Region**

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

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**Allied Health Programs at Community College of Philadelphia**

Since 1965 Community College of Philadelphia has provided the citizens of Philadelphia with an affordable, comprehensive, urban educational experience. Community College of Philadelphia is the only public institution of higher education in the City of Philadelphia. The College presently offers eight Allied Health programs that lead to an A.A.S. degree and one program that terminates in a certificate. The following are brief descriptions of these programs.

**Clinical Laboratory Technician** - Clinical Lab Technician graduates are prepared to begin work as technicians in hospital laboratories, physician offices, pharmaceutical companies, forensic or police laboratories, research laboratories, and reference laboratories. The Clinical Laboratory Technician Program at Community College of Philadelphia is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Graduates of this program are eligible to take a national certification examination offered by the American Society of Clinical Pathology and the National Certification Agency in Clinical Laboratory Science.

**Dental Assisting Hygiene** - Graduates of the Dental Assisting Hygiene program are prepared as oral health educators, clinicians, and vital members of the Dental profession. Dental Assisting Hygiene graduates are eligible to take the North East Regional Board Examination and the Dental Hygiene National Board to obtain Dental Hygiene licensure. Our Dental Assisting Hygiene program is accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation.

**Dental Assisting Certificate** - The curriculum prepares graduates to be chair side dental assistants. The Dental Assisting Certificate Program enables graduates to continue their education in dental hygiene. Students are eligible to take the Dental Assisting National Board Examination to become Certified Dental Assistants.

**Diagnostic Medical Imaging** - Graduates of this program learn the entry-level skills to use ionizing radiation to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury. The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology has accredited the Program and Diagnostic Medical Imaging graduates are eligible to take the national certifying examination of the American Registry of Radiologic Technology.

**Dietetic Technician** - Graduates of this program are health care professionals who have technical knowledge and skills to assist the dietitian, nutritionist or food service director in assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of foodservices and nutrition care. As nutrition care providers, dietetic technicians participate in the delivery of nutrition care and medical nutrition therapy for patients, residents, and clients in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and outpatient centers. Some technicians may be employed in management positions and have direct responsibility for the foodservice operation and delivery of food and nutrition to clients. Other technicians may be employed in community based positions as a nutrition coordinator/advisor which requires them to assess needs of targeted audiences, organizations, and agencies, then plan, present and monitor nutrition programs and services. Additional opportunities for dietetic technicians exist in the area of health promotion, fitness and wellness programs. In addition to completing this career track

program and becoming eligible to take the registration exam administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, the credentialing agency of the American Dietetic Association, graduates can also continue their education. The Dietetic Technician program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of the American Dietetic Association.

**Health Information Technology** - Graduates of the Health Information Technology obtain positions in medical/health record departments in hospitals, clinics, extended care facilities, reimbursement and outsourcing companies. The curriculum prepares graduates for jobs in specialty areas such as coding, reimbursement, release of information, and quality improvement. The program is accredited by the American Health Information Management Association and the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association. Graduates are qualified to sit for the Certified Coding Assistant (CCA) and Register Health Information Technician (RHIT) exams.

**Medical Assisting and Office Management** - By blending clinical, laboratory, and management training, graduates of the Medical Assisting and Office Management program are prepared to work in physicians' offices, clinics, or hospitals. This program qualifies graduates to take the national certification examination of the American Association of Medical Assistants. The Medical Assisting and Office Management program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs on recommendation of the Curriculum Review Board of the American Association of Medical Assistants

Endowment. The US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified Medical Assisting as a rapidly growing occupation through the year 2012.

**Nursing** - Graduates of the Nursing program are prepared to sit for the national licensure examination to become a Registered Nurse (RN) and assume beginning staff nurse positions in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community agencies. Community College of Philadelphia's Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

**Respiratory Care Technology** - Graduates of this program are prepared to assume advanced respiratory care responsibilities as Registered Respiratory Therapists, performing both diagnostic and therapeutic procedures up to and including operation of life support equipment. Graduates are eligible to sit for all credentialing examinations administered by the National Board for Respiratory Care including specialty exams in Pulmonary Function Technology and Pediatrics/Perinatal Respiratory Care and are eligible for Pennsylvania State Certification. The College offers the only Respiratory Care program in the City.

## **Students Served by the College**

During Fall 2003, 511 Community College of Philadelphia students were enrolled in the College's Allied Health programs. Figure 1 contains the numbers of students enrolled in each program during this term.

**Figure 1**

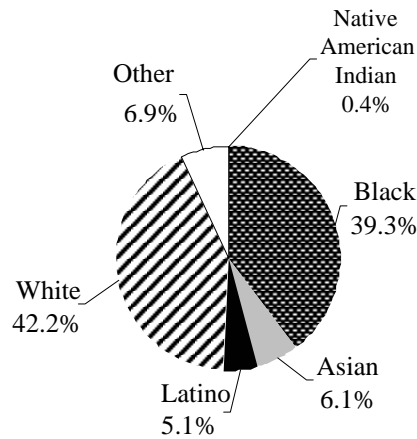
### **Enrollments in Allied Health Programs During the Fall 2003 Semester**

Clinical Lab Technology	37
Dental Assisting	36
Dental Hygiene	27
Diagnostic Medical Imaging	40
Dietetic Technician	21
Health Information Technology	32
Medical Assisting	33
Nursing	241
Respiratory Therapy	44
All Allied Health Programs Combined	511

Eighty-four percent of students enrolled in Allied Health programs during the Fall 2003 semester were females and 16% were males. Students in the Allied Health programs at the College reflect the racial/ethnic diversity of the City of Philadelphia. During Fall 2003, there were nearly equal percentages of Black (39.3%) and White (42.3%) students (Figure 2).

**Figure 2**

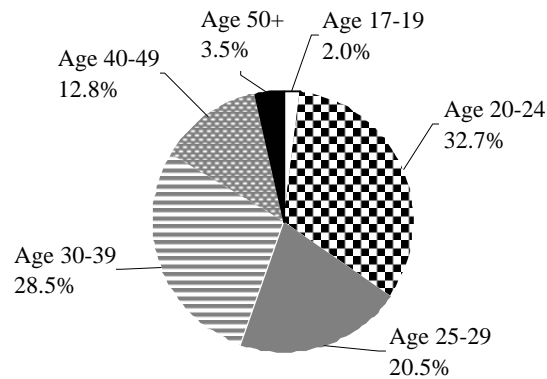
**Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Allied Health Students  
Fall 2003**



All age categories were represented among Fall 2003 Allied Health students (Figure 3). Fifty-five percent of the Allied Health students during the semester were under 30 while over one-third were 30 years of age and older.

**Figure 3**

**Age Distribution of Allied Health Students  
Fall 2003**



The College has awarded 6184 Allied Health-related associate degrees and certificates. Figure 4 contains the numbers of graduates in Allied Health-related programs since 1967, the first year that Allied Health degrees were awarded by the College.

**Figure 4**

**CCP Graduates in Allied Health Programs  
1967-2004**

Clinical Lab Technology	322
Dental Assisting	472
Dental Hygiene	356
Diagnostic Medical Imaging	338
Dietary Manager	204
Dietetic Technician	421
Health Information Technology	290
Medical Assisting	219
Nursing	3197
Respiratory Therapy	514
Total	6333

Many of these graduates would have been unable to pursue higher education if the opportunities provided by the College did not exist. In annual surveys, approximately 40 % of graduates from the last several years indicated they would have been unable to participate in higher education were it not for Community College of Philadelphia.

**Student Accomplishments**

After earning certificates or associates degrees, many Allied Health graduates continue their studies. On average, 24 % of the Colleges' recent Allied Health graduates pursued their studies at another college or university within one year of graduation. Many of these graduates attend institutions within the Philadelphia region (Figure 5).

**Figure 5**

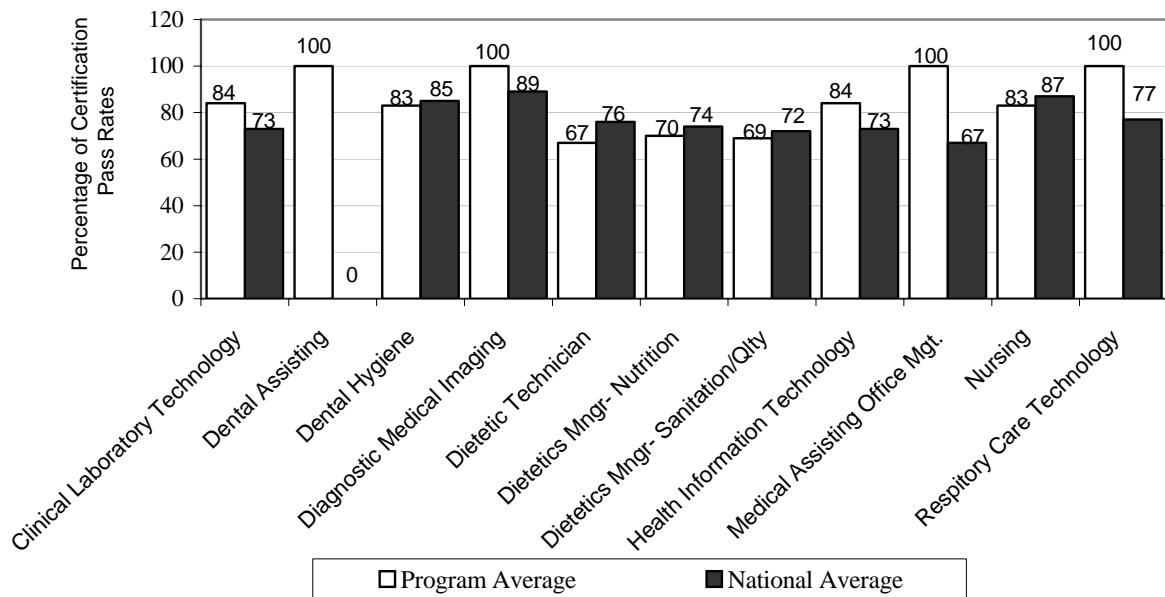
**Higher Education Institutions Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health  
Graduates Were Most Likely to Transfer to Over the Last Four Years**

Drexel University	LaSalle University
Episcopop Hospital	MCP Hahneman University
Frankford Hospital	Presbyterian Hospital
Gwynedd Mercy	Temple University
College Holy Family College	Thomas Jefferson University
Immaculata College	West Chester University

Several collaborative projects have been designed to provide Allied Health students at the College with seamless opportunities to continue their education. For example, Project Impart is a partnership between the College, Thomas Jefferson University, and the National Institutes of Health that facilitates the acquisition of baccalaureate degrees for graduates of the College's Nursing program.

The Colleges' graduates have performed well on certification exams. Pass rates for Community College of Philadelphia graduates have been higher than national averages for several programs (Figure 6).

**Figure 6**  
**2002 & 2003 Certification Pass Rates<sup>2</sup>**  
**Community College of Philadelphia and National Averages**



<sup>2</sup> Data labeled "0" is not presently available. Dietetic Technician and both Dietetic Manager programs are based on 2002 data only. National average for Diagnostic Medical Imaging is based on 2003 data only.

After earning their degrees, a majority of Allied Health graduates remain in the Philadelphia region as active contributing members of the regional economy. Within one year of leaving the College, approximately 80.5% of Allied Health graduates were employed in the Philadelphia area, 92.9% in positions directly related to their Community College of Philadelphia studies. Those not employed had typically transferred to other colleges and universities. Hospitals, long term care facilities, subacute care/rehabilitation centers, and private physician and dental offices are typical employers who have hired recent Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health graduates (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**

**Employers<sup>3</sup> of Recent Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health Graduates**

Abington Memorial Hospital	North Pennsylvania Hospital
Albert Einstein Medical Center (JHS) <sup>4</sup>	Northeastern Hospital (TUHS)
Bayada Nurses	North Philadelphia Health System
Boulevard Nursing Home	Northwestern Health Services
Bryn Mawr Hospital	Parkview Hospital (TENET)
Care Pavilion of Walnut Park	Paul's Run Retirement Community
Cathedral Village	Pennsylvania Hospital (UPHS)
Cheltenham Nursing and Rehabilitation Center	Philadelphia Nursing Home
Chestnut Hill Hospital	Philadelphia Protestant Home
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	Presbyterian Medical Center (UPHS) <sup>6</sup>
Elkins Park Hospital	Quadrangle
Episcopal Hospital (TUHS) <sup>5</sup>	Quest Diagnostic
Evangelical Home	Redeemer Health System
Fox Chase Cancer Center	Reimbursement Technologies, Inc.
Frankford Health Care System (JHS)	Sacred Heart Manor
Graduate Hospital (TENET)	Saunders House
Hahnemann University Hospital (TENET)	Service Master, Inc.
Holy Family Nursing Home	Simpson House
Immaculate Mary Home	St. Agnes Medical Center
Jeanes Hospital (TUHS)	St. Christopher's Hospital (TENET)
Lankenau Hospital	St. Ignatius Nursing Home

<sup>3</sup> The employers listed here are only a sample of the many businesses that hire Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health graduates

<sup>4</sup> JHS = Jefferson Health System

<sup>5</sup> TUHS = Temple University Health System

<sup>6</sup> UPHS = University of Pennsylvania Health System

**Figure 7 (Cont.)  
Employers of Recent Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health Graduates**

Lion's Eye Bank	St. Joseph's Manor
Lower Bucks Hospital (TUHS)	Stapely in Germantown
Magee Rehabilitation Center (JHS)	Suburban General Hospital (MHS) <sup>7</sup>
Masonic Home of Philadelphia	Temple Continuing Care Center
Mayo Nursing and Convalescent Center	Temple University Hospital (TUHS)
Medical College of Pennsylvania (TENET)	The Fountains at Logan Square
Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital (MHS)	Township Manor Health and Rehabilitation Center
Methodist Hospital (JHS)	University Of Pennsylvania Dental Care Centers
Montgomery Hospital	University of Penn Medical Center (UPHS)
Moss Rehabilitation (JHS)	Veterans Administration Medical Center
Nazareth Hospital	Visiting Nurses Association
Neumann Medical Center (TUHS)	Wills Eye Hospital

In addition, many graduates are working at dental and physician private practice sites, contract food companies, and social and community-based programs.

Figure 8 contains the annual salaries earned by Community College of Philadelphia graduates shortly after earning their Allied Health degrees. The average salary earned by 2002 and 2003 Allied Health graduates was \$38,972.45.

**Figure 8  
Average Annual Salaries Earned by 2002-03  
Community College of Philadelphia  
Allied Health Graduates<sup>8</sup>**

Dental Hygiene	\$61,706.67
Respiratory Care	Not Available
Nursing	\$49,632.93
Dental Assisting	\$31,000.00
Diagnostic Medical Imaging-Radiological Technology	\$47,840.00
Dietetic Technician	\$30,640.00
Clinical Laboratory Technology	\$40,000.00
Health Information Technology	\$24,960.00
Medical Assisting and Office Management	\$26,000.00
 Overall Average	 \$38,972.45

<sup>7</sup> MHS= Mercy Health System

<sup>8</sup> Salaries were obtained from survey responses given by 2002 and 2003 graduates. Salaries are based on respondents that reported working at least thirty hours a week nine months following graduation.

As illustrated below in Figures 9 and 10, Allied Health occupations have been projected to be some of the fastest growing employment areas for the Philadelphia Region and the United States in the near future.

**Figure 9**  
**14 Fastest Projected Growing Occupations**  
**in the Philadelphia Region 1998-2008**

- Computer Support Specialists
- Paralegals and Legal Assistants
- Medical Records and Health Information Technicians
- Physical Therapy Assistants and Aides
- Respiratory Therapists
- Dental Hygienists
- Occupational Therapy Assistants and Aides
- Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians
- All Other Health Professionals and Paraprofessionals
- Registered Nurses
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
- Radiation Therapists
- Veterinary Technologists and Technicians
- Funeral Directors and Morticians

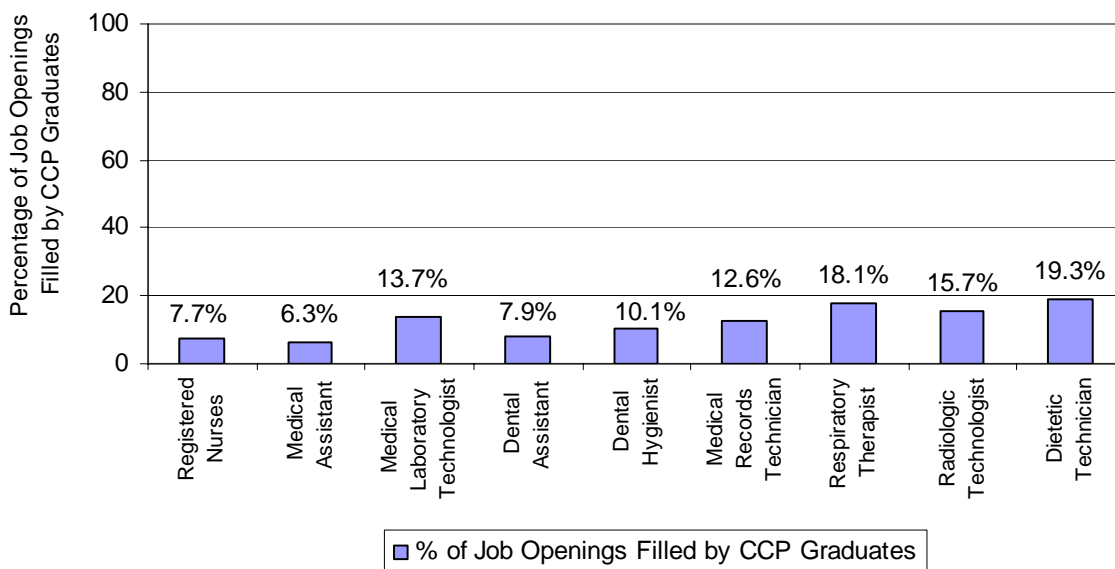
**Figure 10**  
**14 Fastest Projected Growing Occupations**  
**in the United States 2002-2012**

- Medical Assistants
- Network Systems/Data Communications Analysts
- Physicians Assistants
- Social/Human Service Assistants
- Home Health Aides
- Medical Records/Health Information Technicians
- Physical Therapy Aides
- Computer Software Engineers, Applications
- Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software
- Physical Therapy Assistants
- Fitness Trainers/Aerobics Instructors
- Database Administrators
- Veterinary Technologists & Technicians
- Hazardous Materials Removal Workers

Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health graduates have been a critical source of employees for the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area health care network. Figure 11 contains the

estimated percentages of annual occupational openings filled by Community College of Philadelphia Allied Health graduates over the last seven years. These percentages ranged from 6.3% for the Medical Assistants field to 19.3% for the Dietetic Technician field.

**Figure 10**  
**Philadelphia Region Allied Health Job Openings Filled by CCP Graduates**  
**From 1994 to 2003**



Occupation	Total Number of Job Openings <sup>9</sup>	Total Number of Job Openings Filled by CCP Graduates
Registered Nurses	13690	1051 (7.7%)
Medical Assistants	2460	154 (6.3%)
Medical Laboratory Technologists	940	129 (13.7%)
Dental Assistants	2010	158 (7.9%)
Dental Hygienists	1610	163 (10.1%)
Medical Records Technicians	1180	149 (12.6%)
Respiratory Therapists	940	170 (18.1%)
Radiologic Technologists	1117	175 (15.7%)
Dietetic Technicians	348	67 (19.3%)

<sup>9</sup> Job openings calculated from data on PA Labor Market Information Database System located at <<http://www.palmids.state.pa.us>>

## **Initiatives with Special Impact on the Community**

Community College of Philadelphia has committed itself through its educational programs and services to addressing a wide range of special needs in the City of Philadelphia. The Colleges' Allied Health programs make unique contributions to the community. In addition to attending classes, Allied Health students participate in clinical experiences at a variety of health care agencies in the Philadelphia area. These experiences not only provide students with an opportunity to apply classroom learning in direct client care situations but also provide them with an opportunity to participate in community service. The following are some examples of the impacts of these experiences.

- The dental clinic at the College's Spring Garden campus provides preventive dental hygiene care to approximately 1,000 patients per year. The clinic services the surrounding community by providing care to clients referred by the City of Philadelphia District Health Centers. The Dental Hygiene Clinic also services the College community by providing oral health care and dental health screenings to students, faculty, staff, and children from the Community College of Philadelphia's Child Development Center. All Dental Hygiene services are provided at no cost to the clients.
- All second-year nursing students, approximately 120 this year, spend two days each week in clinical settings, such as hospitals and community based care agencies. Approximately 15 hospitals / health centers, eight schools, and six community agencies in Philadelphia participated as clinical sites. The student hours, which include supervised delivery of patient care, expand the City's health care service delivery resources.

- Over the last several years, the Zip Code Nursing Project has provided health promotion, health education and preventative services to targeted populations in community agencies within the Philadelphia neighborhood shared by the Colleges' Spring Garden Street campus. From May 2003 to May 2004 second-year nursing students provided services, such as cholesterol and blood pressure screenings, immunizations, family planning education, dental care education, substance abuse education, fitness and nutrition education, and women's health education, to approximately 5900 individuals in community agencies. Approximately 68% of the population served were minorities. Roughly 61% of participants were female, 39% were males, and approximately 39% of participants were under the age of 19 years. Community agencies served by CCP second-year nursing students included Head Start, Senior Centers, Community Health Programs, Crisis Centers, and various school and college settings.
- Students in the Diagnostic Medical Imaging Program participate in seven Clinical Education courses in which they have the opportunity to interact with patients in affiliate hospitals. A total of over 1600 hours is devoted to Clinical Education.
- Students in the Clinical Laboratory Technician Program participated in several Health Fairs performing Diabetes Screenings for the College population. They tested glucose levels from a small blood sample taken from the participants' fingers. Approximately 250 members of the college community were screened and several students and staff members who were not aware that they had diabetes were referred to follow up with their physician.
- Clinical Lab Technician faculty and students participated in cholesterol screening for the senior citizens in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Approximately 500 seniors received cholesterol screening through this outreach effort.

- As the only program of its kind in Philadelphia, Respiratory Care graduates are intensely involved in all aspects of patient care. They are also in the enviable position of spearheading an expanding pulmonary rehabilitation initiative in the area, and are developing and initiating programs in sleep apnea and other sleep studies, smoking cessation, and asthma management. The respiratory care program is also in the early stages of developing a curriculum model for Polypomnography (Sleep Medicine) with hopes of implementation in 2006.
- First year Health Information Technology (HIT) students set up a table and distributed literature and information to students regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as part of National Health Information Privacy Week. HIT students also obtain clinical experience in Philadelphia hospitals, physicians' offices, and other medical facilities.
- Medical Assisting and Office Management second-year students participated in the health fairs held at the College, providing cholesterol and blood pressure screening as well as dispensing information on CHIP, Pennsylvania's program to provide health insurance for children of working families who can not otherwise afford it. They also participated in the "Stride for Breast Cancer Awareness" walk and raised over \$500.00 for the cause.
- Medical Assisting and Office Management graduates participate in three different clinical education courses throughout the curriculum where they contribute an excess of 400 hours of interaction and service with patients at various hospitals, cardiology practices, and physician offices.
- Students enrolled in the Dietetic Technician program provide nutrition care services to the City's residents in a variety of settings. In addition to working with the clients in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and long term care facilities, students are actively engaged in projects through community based programs. They provide nutritional

counseling on healthy food choices for pregnant women and young children through the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the City's district health centers. They focus nutrition and health promotion messages to elementary school children through a partnership with Nutritional Development Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Working with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, students participate in the National Nutrition Screening Initiative designed to identify older adults who are at nutritional risk. They offer nutrition education sessions on cooking techniques and food budgeting to participants at senior centers throughout the City. In recent years, as food security issues have emerged, students worked with such organizations as the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank, Philabundance, and SHARE. Proceeds from fresh fruit sales conducted at the College have been donated to the annual Walk Against Hunger.